the user selects an option during set-up, processor **10** may display both the message and message summary in a "split-screen" mode. Because an email message is likely to have a length greater than the capacity of display **16**, keypad **18** preferably allows a user to enter commands for scrolling through the message and performing other text manipulation functions commonly provided in conventional email systems. When the user is finished reviewing the displayed email messages, the user may enter a command on keypad **18** to return to the message summary display. Alternatively, processor **10** may return to the message summary display after a pre-set amount of time, such as **1** minute, elapses during which time the user does not scroll though the message or enter any other commands via keypad **18**.

The answering machine also has a robust capacity to send both email and voice mail messages. A method by which the answering machine can be used to compose and send such messages is illustrated in FIG. **6**. At step **104** a user may use keypad **18** or external "QWERTY" keyboard **32** to compose text messages or use a microphone (not shown) to compose voice messages. At step **106** the user selects a destination address. The user may do so by entering the destination email address using keypad **18** or external "QWERTY" keyboard **32**, or by simply pressing the "REPLY" key (not shown) to send the newly composed message to the previous sender. The user may select the destination address by using keypad **18** to choose an entry in the telephone directory stored in memory **12**. As described above, the directory contain the name of the destination user as well as the corresponding destination on-line email address. A user may add, delete or modify entries in the directory using keypad **18**. At step **108** processor **10** sends the message via modem **14**.

Obviously, other embodiments and modifications of the present invention will occur readily to those of ordinary skill in the art in view of these teachings. Therefore, this invention is to be limited only by the following claims, which include all such other embodiments and modifications when viewed in conjunction with the above specification and accompanying drawings.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for receiving messages using an integrated answering machine, comprising:

answering a telephone call in response to a ring signal on a telephone line at said answering machine;

providing an indication to a caller via said telephone line that said call has been answered;

receiving a voice message from said caller via said telephone line;

storing at least a portion of said voice message in said answering machine;

said answering machine automatically querying a remote computer periodically to determine whether any e-mail messages are stored in the remote computer, including determining whether a telephone number associated with an incoming telephone call is a predetermined service provider number; and

providing an indication as to whether any e-mail messages are stored in said remote computer.

2. The method defined in claim **1**, further including

said answering machine initiating a telephone connection with said remote computer and downloading copies of e-mail messages stored in said remote computer into said answering machine.

3. An integrated answering machine for receiving telephone messages via a telephone line and e-mail messages from a remote computer also via the telephone line, the answering machine comprising:

a telephone line interface connectable to the telephone line;

a modem coupled to the telephone line interface;

a processor configured

for controlling the receipt and recording of telephone messages,

for automatically periodically establishing a connection with a remote computer via the modem and the telephone line and independently querying the remote computer to determine whether any e-mail messages are stored in the remote computer, and

for determining the telephone number associated with an incoming telephone call, and if said telephone number is a predetermined service provider number, downloading copies of e-mail messages stored in said remote computer,

the processor being coupled to the telephone line interface and to the modem;

a display for indicating the results of the query of the remote computer; and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing at least a portion of the telephone messages.

4. An integrated answering machine for receiving telephone messages via a telephone line and e-mail messages from a remote computer also via the telephone line, the answering machine comprising:

a telephone line interface connectable to the telephone line;

a modem coupled to the telephone line interface;

a processor configured

for controlling the receipt, recording and playback of telephone messages,

for automatically determining the telephone number associated with an incoming telephone call, and if said telephone number is a predetermined service provider number, automatically downloading copies of e-mail messages stored in said remote computer, and

for controlling the receipt, storing and display of at least a portion of e-mail messages received via said telephone line,

the processor being coupled to the telephone line interface and to the modem; and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing at least a portion of the e-mail messages.

5. The integrated answering machine defined in claim **4**, wherein said processor further includes means for establishing a telephone connection with said remote computer via said modem and said telephone line, and for downloading copies of e-mail messages stored in said remote computer.

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